

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toshiaki NAGAI

Group Art Unit: 3629

Application No.: 09/807,222

Examiner: N. VIG

Filed: September 28, 2001

Docket No.: 109159

For: NETWORK TRADING SYSTEM AND METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

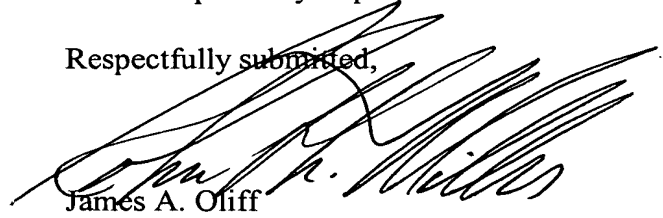
Sir:

In reply to the August 30 Restriction Requirement, the shortened statutory period for response being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, Applicant provisionally elects Group III, claims 6-13 and 20-23, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-27 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:KXH

Date: October 28, 2005

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